

FIREWISE LANDSCAPING

A landscape is a dynamic system that constantly grows and changes. Plants considered fire-resistant and that have low fuel volumes can lose these characteristics over time. Your landscape, and the plants in it, must be maintained to retain their Firewise properties.

- Always keep a watchful eye towards reducing the fuel volumes available to fire. Be aware of growth habits of the plants within your landscape and of the changes that occur throughout the seasons.
- Remove annuals and prune perennials after they have gone to seed or when the stems become overly dry.
- Rake up leaves and other litter as it builds up through the season.
- Mow or trim grasses to a low height within your defensible space.
- Remove plant parts damaged by snow, wind, frost, or other agents.
- Prune all plants, trees, and shrubs in a timely manner; this is critical. Pruning not only reduces fuel volumes but also maintains healthier plants by producing more vigorous growth.
- Maintain your landscaping. This is a critical part of your home's defense system.
- Maintain your defensible space or it will be compromised through lack of maintenance.

Maintenance provides fire safety. Over time, plants grow and spread; mulches dry out; leaves and pine needles accumulate. All contribute to the fuels from which a fire grows. Proper maintenance improves the appearance and helps protect your home from wildfire.

There are no fireproof plants, but some are more fire-resistant than others.

Suggested species for Firewise landscaping include:

Ash
Basswood
Birch
Blackgum
Buckeye
Buttonbush
Catalpa
Cherry
Crabapple
Dogwood
Elm
Hackberry
Hawthorn
Hazelnut
Hickory
Hophornbeam
Horsechestnut
Ky. Coffeetree
Locust
Magnolia
Maple
Mulberry



Oak
Pawpaw
Peach
Persimmon
Plum
Poplar
Redbud
Sassafras
Serviceberry
Spicebush
Sweetgum
Walnut

